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Message Text

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63
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 SCS-03

SCA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 L-03 H-02 PPT-01 /038 W
---------- 073641
R 042100Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4430

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3451

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CASC, DR
SUBJECT: THREE PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS

REF: SD 3424

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

1. IN REFLECTING UPON THE CASE OF THE THREE PUERTO RICANS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THEY ARE OR ARE NOT GUILTY OF THE CHARGES, THE EVIDENCE ADDUCED AS A BASIS FOR A THIRTY-YEAR SENTENCE IS UNPERSUASIVE TO MOST REASONABLE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO WOULD CONSIDER CONFESSIONS ALLEGEDLY EXTRACTED UNDER DURESS TO BE WORTHLESS. ON THE OTHER HAND, KEY DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES ARE VERY LIKELY CONVINCED OF (1) THE PUERTO RICANS' GUILT BASED UPON REPORTS (INTELLIGENCE) THAT CANNOT BE USED IN COURT, (2) THE NECESSITY OF AVOIDING THE APPEARANCE OF SUCCUMBING TO PSP CLAMOR AND PRESSURE, AND (3) THE DESIRABILITY OF DISCOURAGING FUTURE INCURSIONS BY FOREIGN LEFTIST RADICALS. THESE THREE WOULD SEEM TO BE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS IN THE DOMINICAN MIND.

2. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GODR IS NOT FULLY AWARE OF THE RISK IT IS RUNNING OF DAMAGING ITS IMAGE ABROAD AS WELL AS AT HOME BY ITS FAILURE TO MAKE A PERSUASIVE CASE IN TERMS OF DUE PROCESS. IN AN EFFORT TO BRING GREATER BALANCE INTO THE EQUATION, I INTEND TO DISUCSS THE CASE WITH POLIBIO DIAZ, A LAWYER, POLITICIAN AND CLOSE CONIDANT OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER.
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WHILE I DO NOT INTEND TO INTERFERE WITH JUDICIAL PROCESSSES

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(GODR OFFICIALS HAVE PUBLICLY INSISTED THAT THESE MUST BE OBSERVED), THEY CAN PERHAPS BE HASTENED SO THAT THE CASE CAN REACH THE PRESIDENT FOR FINAL AND QUITE PROBABLY MORE HUMANE ADJUDICATION MORE QUICKLY. ACCELERATED PROCESSES COULD BRING TO THE GODR THE BENEFIT OF PREVENTING A GROUND SWELL OF NEGATIVE INTERNATIONAL OPINION ON THE PART OF SOME WHO HONESTLY DISAPPROVE OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AND OTHERS WHO FOR POLITICAL REASONS WISH TO SEE U.S. (PUERTORICAN)/DOMINICAN RELATIONS DETERIORATE AND THE GODR IMAGE TARNISHED.
HURWITCH

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